

# Fahan School

## Safe Party Policy

### 1. Plan the Party

- Invitations - Know how many people are attending. Send out written invitations marked 'invitation only' and be prepared to enforce it. Never promote your party through SMS/text, email, via social media (ie. Facebook) or other similar means - you will have no control over whom and how many people will show up!
- Supervision - Arrange for adult supervision (this will vary depending on the number of people invited, the venue, whether you are using friends / relatives or a security company.)
- Neighbours - Inform your neighbours about the party (most complaints are from neighbours concerning party noise) and be prepared to negotiate with them.
- Start and finish times - Have clear start and finish times.
- Alcohol/Free - Be very clear about whether your party is alcohol free or not. Let people know that if they arrive with alcohol or turn up intoxicated to an alcohol free party that they will be asked to leave or someone will be contacted to take them home. Be aware of State laws regarding serving of alcohol to underage people.
- Food and Drinks (non-alcoholic) - Have plenty of food and snacks, not salty, as well as a good supply of non-alcoholic, or, if appropriate, low-alcoholic alternatives.
- Transport - have a plan for how your guests are to get home after the party. Is there public transport available, taxis, a pooled car with a sober driver, parents / guardians collecting party goers? Might there be a sleep over? This is part of the duty of care.
- Responsibilities - Make sure you know your legal and other responsibilities. Do not host a party if you are unsure or are not ready to take them on. Have the contact details available (parents) of any under-age guests.
- Consider registering the party with the police (they will not come unless you request it on the night but they will be in a better position to help if they have been advised of the details previously.)

See: <http://www.police.tas.gov.au/services-online/party-safe/>

### 2. During the Party

- Monitor the party - watch for legal and illicit drugs being taken / mixed with alcohol, for example some teenagers are not aware of the dangers of mixing anti-depressants with alcohol.
- Get everyone to declare the drinks they bring so that you are aware of what and how much is being consumed.
- Have plenty of food, water and coffee available.
- Be up-to-date with your responsibilities regarding duty of care.
- Trouble? Call the police early (ie at the first sign of trouble). Depending on police resources that evening it could take some time for the police to arrive.

# Youth and alcohol

at home and on other private property



**The *Sale or Supply of Alcohol to Youths (Police Offences Act 1935)* legislation regulates the supply of alcohol to people under the age of 18 years, on private property.**

**This legislation supports a responsible approach by parents, guardians, and other adults with parental rights, who choose to supply young people with alcohol.**

---

#### What does the legislation mean?

If you supply someone under the age of 18 years with alcohol on private property, and:

- you are not the responsible adult
- do not have the permission of the responsible adult, and
- do not supply alcohol in a responsible manner

**you will be breaking the law, and may be fined or face imprisonment.**

The current National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) *Australian Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol* advocate that there is no safe level of consumption of alcohol for anyone under 18 years.

---

## Who is a responsible adult?

**A responsible adult** is a parent, step-parent, guardian, or someone with parental rights and responsibilities for a young person. Additionally a responsible adult can also be a person who has been authorised to supply alcohol to a youth.

**Responsible supply of alcohol** means appropriately supervising consumption, ensuring food is available and limiting the quantity and type of alcohol.

---

## Can I still let my teenager have an alcoholic drink at home?

Yes, if you are a responsible adult for the youth **and**

- consideration is given to the age of the youth, **and**
- neither the responsible adult nor the youth is intoxicated, **and**
- the supply is consistent with the responsible supervision of that youth, **and**
- a responsible adult is supervising the consumption of liquor, **and**
- consideration is given to the quantity, type and time period over which the liquor is supplied, **and**
- food is provided for the youth to consume with the liquor.

---

## What happens if my teenager has a party or gathering at home with alcohol present?

If there is a possibility that alcohol will be consumed at the party or gathering, then you must obtain permission from the responsible adult for each of the young people. The way in which you obtain the permission is up to you: it can be written, verbal or electronic, just make sure that it is legitimate and reliable.

---

## What are my responsibilities as an adult in supervising the use of alcohol at a teenage party or gathering?

As the responsible adult, in addition to gaining permission, you must supervise appropriately. You must ensure that you are not intoxicated and that the young people do not become intoxicated. You need to provide non-alcoholic drinks and food. You need to be aware of the age of the young people, and the type and quantity of alcohol being consumed.

---

## What happens if an adult doesn't act responsibly?

Fines for minor offences may be imposed by infringement notice. Significant fines or a jail term of up to 12 months may be incurred for more serious offences.

